

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 06469 131932Z

64

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 COME-00 INT-08 SCEM-02

SCI-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NEA-10 AGR-20 DRC-01 /195 W

----- 114261

R 131822Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9128

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 6469

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: ENRG, BE

SUB: PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENTS IN BELGIUM

REF: BRUSSELS 6308

1. POTENTIAL PETROLEUM SUPPLY SHORTAGE REMAINS MAJOR NEWS
ITEM ON THE LOCAL SCENE. GOB HAS INSTITUTED SPEED LIMITS ON
ROADS PLUS OTHER PALLIATIVES MENTIONED IN REFTEL. MINISTERIAL
DECREE DATED NOVEMBER 6 FORMALLY PLACES WHOLE PETROLEUM SECTOR
UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTROL BUT AT MOMENT GOVERNMENT IS NOT RPT
NOT EXERCISING THAT AUTHORITY WHICH APPARENTLY INTENDED FOR USE
ONLY IF AND WHEN NECESSARY. TO AVOID NECESSITY FOR DIRECT
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION, PETROLEUM INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS HAVE WORKED OUT SUPPLY ALLOCATION SYSTEM BASED UPON
1972 DELIVERIES.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 06469 131932Z

2. NEED FOR SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN RETAIL PRICES FOR PETROLEUM

PRODUCTS BECOMING INCREASING EVIDENT (BELGIAN PRICES SIGNIFICANTLY BELOW THOSE IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES) AND GOVERNMENT IN PREPARING ITSELF TO ANNOUNCE INCREASE. HOWEVER AS LOCAL CONSERVATIVE PRESS SMUGLY POINTING OUT, TIME HAS PASSED WHEN RATIONALIZATION OF LOCAL PRICES WOULD HAVE AFFECT ON BELGIUM'S ABILITY TO OBTAIN INCREASED SUPPLIES FROM OUTSIDE.

3. MINECON AFFAIRS CURRENTLY PURSUING POLICY OF ACTIVE JAWBONING, E.G. CALLING ON LOCAL POWER INDUSTRY TO RECONVERT TO USE OF COAL. OTHERWISE GOB ABSTAINING FROM PUBLIC STATEMENTS, PARTICULARLY ON INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS.

4. LOCAL INDUSTRY STILL HAS NOT YET FELT AFFECTS OF PETROLEUM EMBARGOES AGAINST NETHERLANDS. AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL, NO DIRECT PRESSURE HAS YET BEEN APPLIED AGAINST GOB IN REGARD TO SHIPMENTS FOR EXPORT (E.G. TO NETHERLANDS) OR TO INTERNAL CUSTOMERS SUCH AS US MILITARY.

5. WE UNDERSTAND FROM RELIABLE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY SOURCE THAT DOBBLE COUNTING FACTOR MAY BE INVOLVED IN "OFFICIAL" INDUSTRY OR GOVERNMENT FIGURES IN EUROPE ON STOCKS OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS ON HAND. IN BELGIUM, FOR INSTANCE, STOCK HELD IN CONFORMITY WITH LONG STANDING GOB REQUIREMENT (MINIMUM 60 DAYS) INCLUDE STOCKS ACTUALLY LOCATED IN STORAGE FACILITIES IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. THESE STOCKS HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN IN-COUNTRY FIGURES IN AN INFORMAL ARRANGEMENT WITH GOB OFFICIALS WHICH PRE-DATED CURRENT OIL CRISIES. WE WONDER WHETHER SOME STOCKS ARE NOT BEING INCLUDED IN BOTH BELGIAN AND DUTCH/FRENCH/GERMAN STOCK STATISTICS.

6. EVENING NOVEMBER 12, AGATT WAS TOLD BY DUTCH DELEGATE TO NATO FOOD AND AGRICULTURE PLANNING COMMITTEE THAT ON NOVEMBER 9 SENIOR NETHERLANDS MINAG OFFICIALS WERE ALERTED TO BE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN A CRASH PROJECT TO DEVELOP A GASOLINE (AND POSSIBLY OTHER FUELS) RATIONING SYSTEM THAT COULD BE PUT INTO EFFECT SOMETIME NEXT MONTH.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, SUPPLIES, PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, PRICES, RATIONING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BRUSSE06469
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731138/aaaabbud.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BRUSSELS 6308
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <06-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENTS IN BELGIUM
TAGS: ENRG, BE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005